

Debating Rules For Class Participation

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairperson: Controls the debate; is neutral: sort of judge. 2. Proposer: Speaks for the motion; a sort of lawyer arguing for the motion. 3. Opposer: Speaks against the motion; a sort of lawyer arguing against the motion. 4. Proposer's Secunder: Second speaker for the motion; helps proposer. 5. Opposer's Secunder: Second speaker against the motion; helps opposer. <p>Motion: The topic being debated; the wording is important.</p> <p>How to proceed in a debate:</p> <p>A) No. 1 Reads the motion No. 2 Speaks for the motion No. 3 Speaks against the motion No. 4 Speaks for the motion No. 5 Speaks against the motion</p> <p>B) Then after No. 2-5 have spoken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Chairperson opens debate to the floor (rest of the class) II. Students ask questions of speakers 2-5 only: III. <i>when</i> chairperson says they can speak. IV. Students stand up and start by saying, "Mr. Chairman/Ms. Chairwoman." V. Individuals speak carefully. No insulting names, must say things like, "A previous speaker" or the Proposer's secunder says..." VI. Keep the debate impersonal, attack ideas not people. VII. Individuals can make statements or ask speakers No. 2-5 to explain something. Speakers 2-5 answer. 	<p>C)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. After the class has nothing else to say or ask, or if it is time for the bell, the Chairperson closes the debate to the floor (the class). II. Chairperson asks the Proposer to briefly sum up his/her main idea. III. Chairperson asks the Opposer to briefly sum up his/her main idea. IV. Chairperson then reads the motion to the class (to make sure they understand it.) <p>D) The Chairperson stands up and asks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Those for the motion to put up their hands (chairperson counts and writes down the number). II. Those against the motion to put up their hands (chairperson counts and writes down the number). III. Those who are neutral/ abstaining (can't make up their minds) (chairperson counts and writes down the number). IV. Chairperson then says whether the motion is carried (proposer win) or defeated (opposer win) by saying "I declare this motion – reads motion – carried or defeated." <p>Remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstainers, no matter how many, can never win. • Chairperson has casting vote in the event of a tie. • Vote on the ideas heard in the room, not on what you know from elsewhere.
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